



Infomati

A Weekly Review

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◆ Canada's fertility rate falls to all-time low

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Record six-month burst in jobs

The Canadian economy created 66,000 new jobs in June, driving the national unemployment rate down from 7.7% to 7.5%.

The burst of job growth brought the total for the first half of 2002 to a record 303,000, almost as many jobs as the economy created in all of 2000 and 2001.

Manufacturing accounted for 30,000 of the new jobs despite reduced employment in wood products manufacturing. Employment was also up a sharp 22,000 in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing.

Construction employment rose 11,000, with 7,000 of this increase occurring in Quebec. So far this year, employment in construction is up 25,000 in Quebec and 12,000 in Alberta.

The vast majority of the new employment in June, about 60,000 jobs, were full-time positions. So far this year, full-time employment has gone up by 199,000, or 1.6%, while part-time has gained 104,000, or 3.8%.

(continued on page 2)

Labour Force Survey, June 2002

Seasonally adjusted*

	Labour force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change, previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	rate (%)
Canada	16,646.2	0.2	15,393.6	0.4	1,252.6	7.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	259.3	0.6	218.5	1.8	40.8	15.7
Prince Edward Island	75.8	0.7	66.6	-0.1	9.2	12.1
Nova Scotia	472.9	-1.0	428.7	-0.6	44.3	9.4
New Brunswick	381.3	-0.7	344.7	-0.4	36.6	9.6
Quebec	3,935.7	0.1	3,614.6	0.2	321.1	8.2
Ontario	6,494.7	0.3	6,036.7	0.2	457.9	7.1
Manitoba	596.9	0.4	567.9	0.9	29.0	4.9
Saskatchewan	508.5	-0.1	481.7	0.6	26.8	5.3
Alberta	1,763.6	0.4	1,665.3	0.7	98.3	5.6
British Columbia	2,157.5	0.6	1,968.9	1.4	188.7	8.7

* Data are for both sexes aged 15 and over.



Statistics
Canada

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Canada

Record six-month... (continued from page 1)

Western Canada enjoyed the lion's share of the latest job bonanza. British Columbia had an increase of 27,000 jobs; Alberta, 11,000; Manitoba, 5,000; and Saskatchewan, 3,000.

Employment advanced by 30,000 among adult women, slightly more than the gain of 25,000 among adult men. Full-time employment grew 30,000 among youths aged 15 to 24.

For the second consecutive month, there were 18,000 more summer jobs for students aged 20 to 24 than a year earlier. However, as in May, competition for these jobs was stiff, as the number of students in that age group was up 36,000 from June 2001. As a result, the summer employment rate for older students was 67.6%, down a full percentage point.

Self-employment advanced 17,000, bringing gains over the last three months to 56,000. The number of employees continued to rise in June (+49,000), with the increase divided almost equally between the public and private sectors.

Provincially, the unemployment rate declined in all provinces except Prince Edward Island and Ontario.

Employment in British Columbia rose 27,000, pushing the unemployment rate down from 9.5% to 8.7%. The finance, insurance, real estate and leasing industry, along with information, culture and recreation, led June's increase. In the first half of 2002, employment has risen 56,000, with two-thirds of this increase concentrated in Vancouver (+36,000).

In Alberta, employment rose 11,000, almost all full-time, pushing the unemployment rate down from 5.9% to 5.6%. The gain in June was concentrated in manufacturing and in management of companies, administrative and other support services. Employment in Alberta grew 21,000 in the first half of 2002, continuing the long-term upward trend.

With 3,000 more jobs in Saskatchewan in June, the unemployment rate fell from 5.9% to 5.3%. The increase was concentrated in health care and social assistance. So far in 2002, overall employment has risen 16,000, in contrast with the previous year and a half when employment declined 24,000.

Employment rose a moderate 12,000 in Ontario, giving it 67,000 new jobs in the first six months of the year. Even though manufacturing employment was unchanged in June, this sector posted the largest gains in the province so far this year (+54,000). Ontario's unemployment rate rose from 7.0% to 7.1%.

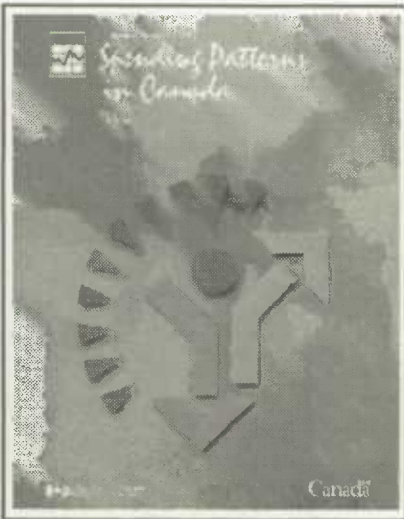
Employment rose 4,000 in Newfoundland and Labrador, pushing the unemployment rate down from 16.8% to 15.7%. Job gains were distributed among several industries.

Labour force information for the week ending June 15 (Internet: 71-001-PIB, \$8/\$78; paper: 71-001-PPB, \$11/\$103) is now available. For general information, contact Client Services (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Geoff Bowlby (613-951-3325), Labour Statistics Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 6.)

Spending patterns in Canada

Spending patterns in Canada presents analysis and key tables from the annual Survey of Household Spending. The survey collects information about expenditures by households and families in Canada on a wide variety of goods and services, from food and shelter to pet expenses and movie admissions. It also collects data about dwelling characteristics, household appliances, home entertainment and communications equipment, and vehicles.

Spending patterns in Canada, 2000 (Internet: 62-202-XIE, \$34; paper: 62-202-XPE, \$45) is now available. For more information, contact Client Services (1-888-297-7355; 613-951-7355; income@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division.



Construction intentions still high

Municipalities issued building permits valued at \$3.6 billion in May, down 7.6% from April. Despite this decline, construction intentions remained high, with the value of permits surpassing \$3.5 billion for an unprecedented five consecutive months.

On a year-to-date basis, municipalities issued \$18.7 billion in permits between January and May, up 13.6% from the same five-month period in 2001. This was the result of a tremendous advance in the residential sector, whereas non-residential intentions declined.

The value of residential permits dropped 12.6% to \$2.3 billion in May, largely because of a marked decline in multi-family permits. The value of multi-family permits totalled \$662 million, down 25.8% from April's record high.

The value of single-family permits fell 6.0% to \$1.7 billion, but more than 10,200 new single units were approved. It was the first time since 1990 that more than 10,000 new single units have been authorized for five consecutive months.

Advantageous mortgage rates and their positive impact on housing affordability, the low number of existing available dwellings, strong showings in employment and buoyant consumer confidence have boosted the demand for new dwellings over the last months.

On a year-to-date basis, municipalities issued \$12.2 billion in residential permits, up 37.0% from the first five months of 2001. All 10 provinces showed high growth rates in residential construction.

After three consecutive monthly declines, non-residential construction rebounded with a 3.3% jump in May to \$1.3 billion. The value of institutional permits climbed 39.1% to \$373 million, with higher construction intentions in the medical and hospital category contributing heavily to this gain.

Commercial building permits rose 1.1% to \$651 million, with the strongest advance in office buildings and the largest drop in the trade and services category. Industrial building intentions tumbled 22.4% to \$245 million after jumping 62.5% in April.

Among the provinces, increases in the commercial and institutional components led Ontario to the largest advance in the non-residential sector (+12.3% to \$562 million). However, a large drop in the Vancouver area led British Columbia to a sharp 16.3% decline to \$133 million.

Value of building permits by census metropolitan area
Seasonally adjusted

	May 2002 ^P	April to May 2002	January to May 2002	January- May 2001 to January- May 2002
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
St. John's	24.5	-5.6	102.4	46.1
Halifax	30.7	-11.3	175.7	34.9
Saint John	7.6	-9.6	36.5	13.5
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	11.0	1.8	49.9	-41.0
Québec	69.7	38.5	276.7	-13.5
Sherbrooke	16.9	-4.4	96.7	56.1
Trois-Rivières	6.2	-67.7	58.2	19.3
Montréal	355.7	3.3	1,890.1	4.0
Hull	34.2	62.5	168.7	6.7
Ottawa	183.2	0.1	680.4	-2.7
Kingston	52.4	15.6	129.8	52.7
Oshawa	68.2	67.5	265.7	34.5
Toronto	732.2	-14.3	3,656.1	2.7
Hamilton	81.0	13.4	473.7	37.1
St. Catharines-Niagara	24.2	-54.8	246.7	61.5
Kitchener	89.7	9.4	424.8	22.3
London	63.3	1.8	279.1	-14.7
Windsor	52.0	-14.9	302.5	53.2
Sudbury	6.2	-58.3	32.2	11.3
Thunder Bay	6.0	52.0	89.1	130.7
Winnipeg	38.7	14.6	189.4	6.7
Regina	12.9	5.6	59.2	-34.5
Saskatoon	18.1	-20.5	132.2	11.8
Calgary	219.4	-18.2	1,117.9	23.5
Edmonton	103.7	-13.5	659.8	25.1
Abbotsford	11.3	0.4	67.0	-2.5
Vancouver	243.6	-38.5	1,430.7	2.8
Victoria	40.4	43.8	194.0	42.3

^P Preliminary data.

Eighteen of the 28 census metropolitan areas recorded monthly increases in non-residential intentions. The largest rise occurred in the Toronto area, because of proposed construction projects for office buildings and hotels and restaurants.

The May 2002 issue of *Building permits* (Internet: 64-001-XIE, \$14/\$145) is now available. For general information, contact Vere Clarke (1-800-579-8533; 613-951-6556; clarver@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025; saineti@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

Slump in domestic travel sector

The domestic travel sector slumped in 2001 in the wake of an economic slowdown, low consumer confidence and the impact of September 11.

Canadians last year took 144.2 million trips within Canada, down a sharp 11.0% from 162.1 million in 2000.

That followed a healthy 3.1% increase in 1999. Several factors contributed to last year's reduction: the economic slowdown in Canada for the first three quarters of 2001; a drop in consumer confidence that occurred, according to the Conference Board of Canada, from January to September; and the events of September 11.

Domestic travel expenditures fell to \$24.6 billion, down 2.9% from a peak of \$25.3 billion in 2000. This occurred in part because of significant jumps in the price of gasoline. In constant dollars, adjusted for inflation, domestic tourism expenditures declined 4.4% in 2001.

Spending fell in every major category except purchases of clothing and other consumer goods, which rose 7.4% to \$3.7 billion. Transport costs, which accounted for 38% of travel costs, declined 4.8% to \$9.5 billion. The biggest decline was in spending on accommodation, which fell 7.9% to \$4.0 billion.

These estimates come from the Canadian Travel Survey, a monthly survey that collects information on trips from a sample

Domestic travel

	1999	2000	2001
Total trips (millions)	164.1	162.1	144.2
% change	3.1	-1.2	-11.0
Spending (\$ billions)	22.6	25.3	24.6
% change	7.4	11.8	-2.9

of about 14,700 Canadian households. A trip is defined as travel to a Canadian destination at least 80 kilometres one way from home for any reason.

Business and convention travel were both strongly affected last year. The number of such trips fell to 18.5 million, down 19.2% from 2000. Business travel represents only 13% of total domestic trips, but is the most lucrative market for the travel industry.

Data on domestic travel are available for free at Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca) under the heading Canadian Statistics. For more information, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; cult.tourstats@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Lizette Gervais-Simard (613-951-1672; gervliz@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

City dwellers live longer than rural Canadians

Life expectancy in Canada is among the best in the world and has been for several decades. However, health status is by no means evenly distributed across Canada's communities.

People living in the nation's largest cities and urban centres were among the healthiest in 2000-01. These residents had the longest life expectancies and disability-free life expectancies in the country, according to a new study that clusters the nation's 139 health regions into 10 "peer groups".

Residents of Canada's largest cities tended to have healthier behaviours than the average Canadian. About 18% of residents in these peer groups were daily smokers in 2000-01, compared with the national average of 22%. The rates of obesity and heavy drinking for these groups were the lowest among all the peer groups.

Richmond, British Columbia, stood out as an exceptional health region among urban regions. Life expectancy in Richmond was the highest in the country at 81.2 years, nearly three years

longer than the national average, whereas, the Région de Montréal-Centre had the lowest life expectancy, at 77.9 years.

Remote northern communities represent a small proportion of Canada's total population. Education levels in these communities are low and these groups had the lowest life expectancies and disability-free life expectancies. The rates of smoking, obesity and heavy drinking were above the national averages. Residents of these northern communities, however, were less likely to report high levels of stress.

The life expectancy for groups consisting mostly of rural health regions, predominantly from Canada's eastern provinces and the Prairies, was shorter than the Canadian average. Similar to the northern groups, these rural groups had smoking rates, obesity rates and heavy drinking rates above the national averages, but lower stress rates.

The health of Canada's communities, 2000-2001 (Internet: 82-003-SIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the Our products and services page, choose Free publications, then Health. For more information, contact Margot Shields (613-951-4177; margot.shields@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division.

Canada's fertility rate falls to all-time low

The birth rate in Canada slipped to a record low in 1999, well below what is still a rising rate in the United States.

As a result, migration will remain the main contributor to population growth. And if fertility remains at the current level, deaths will outnumber births in Canada within about 25 years, according to a study published in the annual *Report on the demographic situation in Canada*.

Population projections in the United States indicate that births there will continue to exceed deaths for the next 50 years.

Canada's fertility rate has been declining, whereas the American rate has been rising. In 1999, Canadian fertility hit a record low of 1.52 children per woman, compared with the American rate of 2.08, a difference of more than half a child per woman. Only 20 years ago, this gap was less than one-third of that size.

For almost a century, Canada's population growth was higher than that of the United States. However, Canada's growth is now only about three-quarters of the growth south of the border.

In 1999, Canada's population growth rate was 8.6 per 1,000 compared with 12.3 in the United States. About 337,200 babies were born in Canada in 1999. Had Canada's fertility rate been the same as that of the United States, Canada would have had an estimated additional 123,000 births, bringing the population growth rate to 12.7 per 1,000.

About 60% of the gap in the rates is a result of the declining fertility of Canadian women in their 20s. Canadian women aged

20 to 24 had 40% fewer children between 1979 and 1999. Among those aged 25 to 29, the fertility rate dropped 25%. As a result, the fertility rate of American women aged 20 to 24 is currently 75% higher than their Canadian counterparts, and 15% higher for those aged 25 to 29.

An additional one-third of the gap is the result of high fertility levels among American teenage girls aged 15 to 19. However, American teen fertility rates have been relatively high for years compared with other industrialized countries.

In Canada, fertility rates are falling because of a tendency to delay starting families. This may be the result of economic difficulties experienced by young households or the growing fragility of conjugal relationships. Delaying childbearing often lowers the number of children a couple has.

Another factor is that Canadian women use more effective contraceptive methods than American women. In Canada, among women aged 15 to 19 who use contraceptives, 86% use a pharmaceutical method, primarily the pill, and 14% use a natural or barrier method, mainly the condom. In the United States, only 58% use the pill, and 42% use a barrier.

Marriage also occurs earlier and more often in the United States, and as a result, women tend to bear children earlier. The average age at first childbirth is nearly 29 in Canada, compared with 27 in the United States. Further, there is some evidence that young Canadians may have more difficulty entering the labour market than Americans, and so may postpone having children.

The 2001 issue of Report on the demographic situation in Canada (paper: 91-209-XPE, \$31) is now available. For more information, contact Alain Bélanger (613-951-2326; belala@statcan.ca), Demography Division.

World trade analyzer

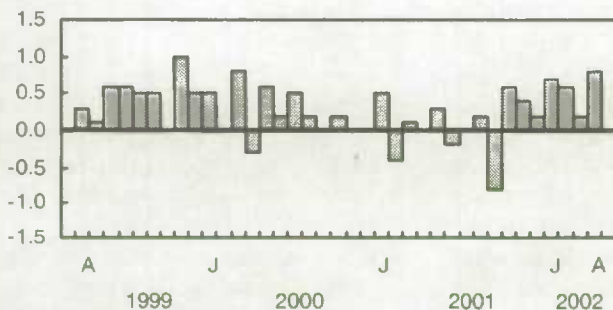
Adjusted United Nations commodity trade data for 2000 is available on the *World trade Analyzer* (WTA) CD-ROM in a time series for the period 1985 to 2000. The WTA contains data on more than 800 commodities based on the Standard International Trade Classification Revision 2, covering about 180 world trading partners.

The CD-ROM World trade analyzer, 1985-2000 (65F0016XCE, \$4,000) is now available. For more information, contact Jocelyne Elibani (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9786; trade@statcan.ca), International Trade Division.

Current trends

Gross domestic product

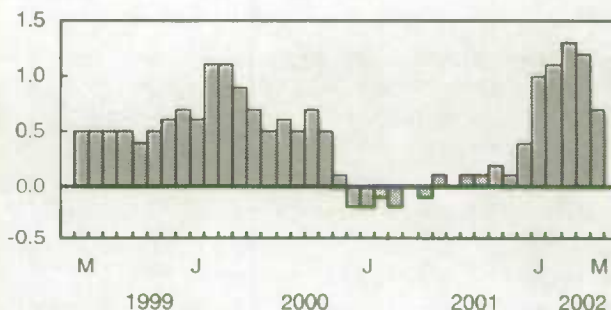
% change, previous month



Total economic activity advanced 0.8% in April, after rising 0.2% in March.

Composite index

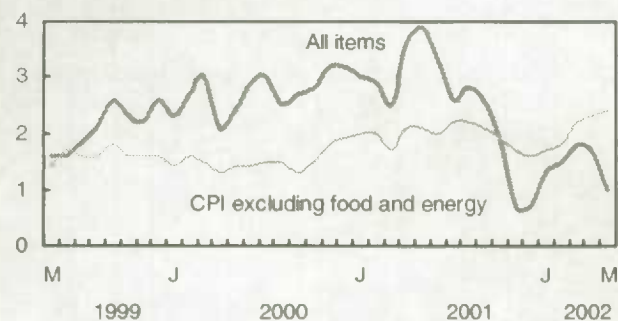
% change, previous month



The leading indicator gained 0.7% in May. New orders accelerated in response to household and export demand.

Consumer Price Index

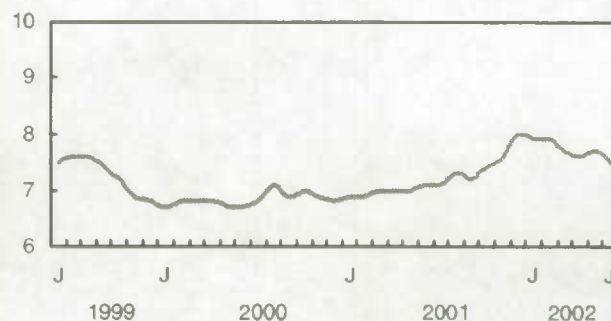
% change, previous year



Consumer prices for goods and services were 1.0% higher in May than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 2.4%.

Unemployment rate

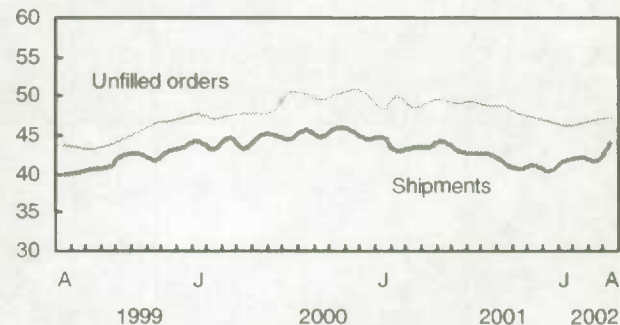
%



In June, the unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage points to 7.5%.

Manufacturing

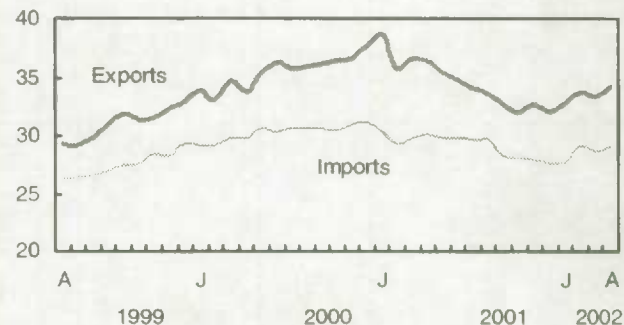
\$ billions



Manufacturers' shipments jumped 5.0% in April to \$43.9 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders rose 0.6% to \$47.3 billion.

Merchandise trade

\$ billions



In April, the value of merchandise exports increased 2.9% to \$34.3 billion. Imports rose 1.6% to \$29.1 billion.

Note: All series are seasonally adjusted except the Consumer Price Index.

Latest statistics

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year
GENERAL				
Gross domestic product (\$ billions, 1997) ¹	April	966.3	0.8%	3.0%
Composite Index (1992=100)	May	176.4	0.7%	6.3%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billions)	Q1 2002	34.7	9.0%	-16.3%
Capacity utilization rate (%) ²	Q1 2002	81.7	1.3†	-2.3†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade (\$ billions)	April	25.5	1.0%	5.5%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	April	142.2	1.7%	6.9%
Wholesale trade (\$ billions)	April	34.8	2.4%	7.3%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	June*	15.4	0.4%	2.1%
Unemployment rate (%)	June*	7.5	-0.2†	0.4†
Participation rate (%)	June*	66.8	0.1†	0.9†
Average weekly earnings (\$)	April	673.85	0.05%	2.09%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	June	127.6	0.6%	-16.8%
Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries (in thousands)	April	531.8	-3.1%	6.8%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports (\$ billions)	April	34.3	2.9%	-5.9%
Merchandise imports (\$ billions)	April	29.1	1.6%	-3.4%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billions)	April	5.2	0.5	-1.1
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billions)	April	43.9	5.0%	1.2%
New orders (\$ billions)	April	44.2	4.5%	0.3%
Unfilled orders (\$ billions)	April	47.3	0.6%	-4.0%
Inventory/shipments ratio	April	1.42	-0.06	-0.08
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	May	118.6	0.2%	1.0%
Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100)	May	106.6	-0.7%	-2.6%
Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100)	May	112.6	0.6%	-5.4%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	May*	110.1	0.6%	4.2%

Note: All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of the price indexes.

* new this week

† percentage point

¹ 1997 replaces 1992 as the base year used in determining prices for gross domestic product by industry. Also, valuation has been changed from factor cost to basic prices.

² Calculation of the rates of capacity use is now based on the 1997 North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS), which has replaced the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification.

Infomat

A weekly review

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Exports by commodity

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